

Aug. 16, 2013

**Braemar Hills / Gleason Circle / St. Patrick's Lane Neighborhood
Roadway Reconstruction**

Dear Resident:

The reconstruction project in your neighborhood is complete except for a few small details. This is the final City Extra message that you will receive from us. Over the next few weeks, you may see crew members on-site taking care of the remaining details. This includes performing a "saw and seal" treatment to the new bituminous pavement, which helps control expansion and contraction of the pavement. In cold-weather climates, all blacktop pavements expand and contract when they endure freeze-thaw cycles. Dust will be created when the saws are operating, but the contractor will follow the work with a sweeper truck.

Below are detailed tips on how to maintain your newly seeded areas.

The final assessment amount will not be known until around September 2014. At that time, you will receive a notice of the final assessment amount, the date of the assessment hearing and details of the payment options.

The project will be placed in a warranty period, which begins after we make the final payment to the contractor.

Communications

For detailed information about the project, visit
www.EdinaMN.gov/construction_braemar_gleason_stpatricks.

The City of Edina and Northwest Asphalt would like to thank you for your patience and cooperation throughout the project.

Regards,

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Hydroseeding Lawn Care Tips

Why Hydroseed?

All lawns removed by Edina reconstruction projects will be replaced using hydroseeding. Hydroseed is a patented product that contains seed, mulch and fertilizer. It is sprayed directly onto bare soil areas.

Hydroseed is a proven performer, producing robust and healthy lawns in variety of conditions in a short period of time. When mature, seeded lawns are also more resistant to pests and weather than sod, as they are grown in place from a seed mix specially selected for the area. In addition to these benefits, hydroseeding is significantly less costly than sod. This allows us to get the most out of every budget dollar.

Once hydroseed has been applied, there are a few things listed below that you can do to help your lawn:

WATER

After the newly hydroseeded lawn has set for about 24 hours, it's time to water. Keep the lawn moist by sprinkling it lightly. The first 14 days are the most important. If the germinating seedlings dry out, they will die. Depending on temperatures, watering should take place in the morning, late afternoon or early evening hours.

Keep your mulch bed moist, but don't over water. If you see puddling, stop watering. Once you start watering, it is important to continue to do so, especially when temperatures are in the 80s or higher. Lack of water can cause the seed to dry up and expire.

The easiest way to explain it is: keep your mulch wet; don't let it dry out for periods longer than 24 hours.

FERTILIZE

A commercial fertilizer is applied with your hydroseed. This initial application of fertilizer should provide the nutrients needed to give the young grass seedlings a healthy start. An additional application of fertilizer could be applied during the following growing season. Depending on the time of year, fertilization requirements will vary. Consult a reputable nursery or seed center in your area for proper fertilization specifications.

MOWING

A new lawn should be mowed as soon as the grass blades are 3 to 4 inches high. Keep the lawn mower blades sharp to prevent bruised and torn grass. Prior to mowing, set the mower deck at the highest setting and cut with this setting for the first few months. Do not collect the clippings. Let them biodegrade within the new turf. This helps feed the soil and grass while accelerating development.

PREVENTING WEEDS

Weeds will likely appear in your new lawn. The weeds come from seeds that are dormant in the soil or that have been carried in by wind or birds. Weeds are best controlled by growing good, healthy grass. Properly watered, mowed and well-fertilized grass generally prevents weeds from gaining a stronghold.

MAINTAINING HYDROSEED IN SHADED AREAS

Shaded areas require some additional effort to assure healthy lawn. Lawns in these areas generally suffer in three ways:

- Existing tree root systems rob nutrients from newly established grass blades.
- Lack of sunlight caused by the shading effect of the trees.
- Fallen leaves create a matted condition that prevents the turf from being adequately exposed to sunlight and air.

Thoroughly fertilizing trees and the lawn can provide adequate nutrients. Leaves should be raked early in the spring while the tree branches are still bare to allow the maximum amount of sunlight to reach the grass, which is generally shaded through the remainder of the growing season.

REMEMBER

Your new lawn is still in its infancy. Just because your lawn looks fully established doesn't mean you can stop watering or change your mowing practices. It takes several months before your lawn is ready for the stress of hot summers and cold winters. Choosing the right fertilizer, keeping your mower blades sharp, proper watering practices and changing the height of mowing throughout the year should guarantee a healthy and beautiful lawn.